

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7397
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, RO, SHUM
SUBJ: NEW RESTRICTIONS ON INTERNAL MOVEMENT

1. SUMMARY. REGULATIONS ON INTERNAL MOVEMENT WITHIN ROMANIA APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN SHARPLY TIGHTENED RECENTLY, AND CITIZENS NOW NEED POLICE PERMISSION TO MOVE FROM ONE LOCALITY TO ANOTHER. END SUMMARY.

2. WEEKLY PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER "DIMBOVITA", OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF LOCAL PARTY/STATE APPARATUS OF DIMBOVITA COUNTY, CARRIES ITEM IN DECEMBER 24 ISSUE WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN ELSEWHERE ON NEW RESTRICTIONS

ON INTERNAL MOVEMENTS OF ROMANIANS. CITING "SOME NEW PROVISIONS" OF LAW ON THIS SUBJECT, PAPER INTERVIEWED LOCAL POLICE CHIEF FOR EXPLANA-

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TION, WHICH FOLLOWS.

3. ON PERMANENT CHANGES OF DOMICILE FROM ONE LOCALITY TO ANOTHER, INDIVIDUAL MUST APPLY IN WRITING TO POLICE STATING REASONS FOR MOVE AND ATTESTING THAT HOUSING FOR APPLICANT IN NEW LOCALITY IS AVAILABLE. REASONS MUST BE "VALID"--E.G. CHANGE OF JOB, JOINING SPOUSE WHO RESIDES AND WORKS IN THAT LOCALITY, JOINING PARENTS OR

CHILDREN WHO WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLICANT'S UPKEEP. RULE ALSO APPLIES TO RETIRED INDIVIDUALS WHO RETURN TO PLACE WHERE THEY OWN A HOUSE. POLICE WILL GIVE "THOROUGH EXAMINATION" TO DOCUMENTS AND WILL REJECT APPLICATIONS MADE FOR "UNPRINCIPLED" PURPOSES SUCH AS MOVING TO A TOWN (SIMPLY TO LEAVE COUNTRYSIDE) OR TO "ESTABLISH A RESIDENCE IN A LOCALE TO AID A STUDENT SON WHO COULD THEN CLAIM PRIORITY IN JOB ASSIGNMENT TO THAT AREA."

4. "VISAS" FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE WILL FOLLOW SAME GENERAL PROCEDURES BUT WILL BE GRANTED WITH "MORE CARE" THAN IN PAST. TEMPORARY WORK VISAS CAN BE ISSUED FOR THREE MONTHS UP TO A YEAR, DEPENDING ON TYPE OF WORK APPLICANT WILL BE ENGAGED IN, OR LENGTH OF STUDY PERIOD IN CASE OF STUDENTS. JOB SEEKERS AND OLD OR SICK PERSONS VISITING THEIR CHILDREN FOR HEALTH REASONS WILL RECEIVE VISAS VALID FOR 30 TO 90 DAYS. THOSE WHO REQUEST TEMPORARY VISAS VALID FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS MUST ALSO PRESENT PROOF OF HOUSING VIA A RENTAL CONTRACT IN NEW LOCALITY. PERSONS WHO WILL BE REFUSED SUCH VISAS INCLUDE THOSE WHOSE REASONS FOR MOVE ARE NOT VALID, THOSE SEEKING TO ENTER HOSPITALS (THERE ARE OTHER PROCEDURES), THOSE WHO REQUEST TEMPORARY RESIDENCE WITH RELATIVES OR FRIENDS WITHOUT VALID REASON, THOSE WHO CLAIM TO LIVE IN CONCUBINAGE FROM WHICH EITHER NO CHILDREN HAVE RESULTED OR CHILDREN ARE NOT LEGALLY RECOGNIZED, AND COMMUTERS WHO TRAVEL DAILY TO LOCALITY WHERE THEY WORK.

5. ALL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO ABOVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SYSTEM AND THEREBY AVOID "SANCTIONS" BY POLICE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE ABOVE ARTICLE REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO MOVES FROM ONE LOCALITY TO ANOTHER WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY WE ASSUME SAME OR SIMILAR SYSTEM APPLIES TO MOVES BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTIES. FOR SOME YEARS ROMANIA HAS DECLARED A NUMBER OF URBAN CENTERS AS "CLOSED" TO FURTHER INTERNAL MIGRATION (E.G. BUCHAREST) IN EFFORT TO STEM RURAL TO URBAN FLOW, BUT THIS IS FIRST EVIDENCE WE HAVE SEEN THAT SYSTEM OF, IN EFFECT, INTERNAL PASSPORTS AND VISAS HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL. UNTIL NOW, ROMANIANS HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY FREE TO CHANGE DOMICILES WITHIN THE COUNTRY AS LONG AS THEY AVOIDED "CLOSED" CITIES. NEW PROVISIONS NOW INCREASE POLICE CONTROL OVER MOVEMENTS OF ALL CITIZENS.

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Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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